

**CONDEMNING THOSE WHO SLAN-
DER OUR YOUNG MEN AND
WOMEN RISKING THEIR LIVES
FOR THE NATION**

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2003

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn anyone who feels it is proper to slander the great young men and women who are risking their lives for our great nation. It is tragic enough that doubts about the integrity and motivations of many of our military actions in the eyes of the people of this country, but to advocate the killing of our military personnel is outrageous.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, this is a very grim and unfortunate situation which has raised the ire of myself and countless others from all walks of life. I am speaking about an assistant professor at Columbia University, Nicholas De Genova, who stated that he hoped "there would be a million Mogadishus," which means he hopes millions of young American soldiers are shot, mutilated, and paraded through the streets; all of which are war crimes. He then went on to say, "The only true heroes are those who find ways to help defeat the U.S. military."

It is this type of outlandish anti-American sentiment I stand to condemn. It is my belief that anyone who states such absurdities is speaking in support of terrorism and is going against everything for which the United States stands.

As the War in Iraq continues, it is more important to support our troops. In an all voluntary military, it is imperative we demonstrate a commitment to supporting our military personnel at every turn by reinforcing the values they hold, not by attacking them and questioning their character and certainly not by advocating killing them. We must fight anyone who attacks those who stand side by side as one to fight and die if necessary to secure our most sacred virtue, our freedom!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2003

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I hosted an important Hometown Values tour in my district on March 31 and April 1 meeting with local educators, parents and students to discuss the numerous education needs and challenges in Pine, Chisago, and Isanti counties. I also hosted an important Hometown Values Forum to examine the opportunities to promote physical activity and public health by making our communities more accessible to walking and bicycling.

As a result of these important meetings, I was unable to cast my vote on legislation that the House considered on those two days. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on Rollcall Vote 92, and I am pleased that the House defeated this unacceptable smallpox legislation; I would have voted "aye" on Rollcall Vote 93; I would have voted "aye" on Rollcall Vote 94; I would have voted "aye" on

Rollcall Vote 95, and I am pleased that the House voted overwhelmingly to reject the proposed reductions in Medicare, Medicaid, veterans benefits and railroad retiree pensions. I would have voted "aye" on Rollcall Vote 96; and I would have voted "aye" on Rollcall Vote 97.

**COCONINO AND TONTO NATIONAL
FOREST LAND EXCHANGE ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2003

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 622, the Coconino and Tonto National Forests Land Exchange Act authorizes, directs and expedites two land exchanges in the Coconino and Tonto National Forests in Arizona: the Montezuma Castle/Payson Airport Land Exchange and the Diamond Point Land Exchange.

Through this land exchange, the Town of Payson will receive land adjacent to its airport that will be used for expansion and economic development activities. This is particularly valuable to Payson because the Town is totally surrounded by national forest lands, virtually land-locking the community. Local officials feel that the lack of land for industry and low-cost housing is the major obstacle to economic development in the region.

These two exchanges have been pending for 6 or 7 years, with no conclusion anywhere in sight. The administrative process unfortunately broke down, leaving the Town of Payson and the homeowners of the Diamond Point Summer Homes Association with no other alternative than a legislated exchange. What's more, the exchanges are supported by the Forest Service and are already a part of the Tonto National Forest Plan.

This is common-sense legislation that accomplishes goals that even the Forest Service has stated are a priority. These land exchanges are endorsed by the Gila County Board of Supervisors, the Rim County Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Payson, the Payson Regional Economic Development Corporation, and the National Park Service, among others.

I commend the gentleman from Arizona, Mr. RENZI, for making this legislation a priority, and for bringing it to the floor so quickly.

**SUPPORTING OUR MEN AND
WOMEN IN THE ARMED SERVICES**

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2003

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, as every Member of this body knows, we face a very unsettling time today. With war declared against Iraq, I fully recognize, respect, and share the concerns many people have about the crisis at hand throughout the Middle East and Central Asia. I view any conflict as a decision of the greatest consequence and an act that should be pursued only when all other possibilities have been fully exhausted.

During my more than ten years as a Member of the House Armed Services Committee, I have had the opportunity to visit our brave military men and women in hostile environments from Haiti, to Bosnia, to Kuwait, to Afghanistan, and beyond. I have seen the devastation that armed conflict can impart and witnessed the pain of our wounded troops who gave so bravely and unselfishly of themselves in the service to our nation. I assure you these experiences profoundly affect how I view any decision to commit ourselves to battle, thus placing our troops in harm's way.

With respect to military action against Iraq, I would hope we all agree that Saddam Hussein is evil personified and poses a serious threat to peace, both in the Middle East and throughout the world. As the United Nations inspectors verified prior to their forced expulsion in 1998, Iraq under Saddam Hussein has pursued a frightening program of chemical and biological weapons development coupled with an undeniable record of repeated aggression against its neighbors and the documented use of outlawed chemical weapons even on its own people. Saddam Hussein is one of the greatest threats to peace that the world has ever known.

For the past 12 years, and through a total of 17 United Nations resolutions, Saddam Hussein has repeatedly defied international law and relentlessly pursued a program of developing and stockpiling weapons of mass destruction. Had we allowed Saddam Hussein to continue unchecked, there is every reason to believe his next act of aggression would have been of a nature and scope of unparalleled destruction.

When the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1441 on November 8 of last year, Saddam Hussein was given "one last chance" to comply with international law and fully disarm and destroy his weapons of mass destruction. Yet, Iraq failed to meet the requirements in substance of cooperative disarmament. In short, Saddam Hussein responded to the demands of the world community with defiance and deceit.

With Saddam Hussein's shameful record as background, and the continued failure of Iraq to fully comply with the repeatedly affirmed requirements of disarming, on March 18th—consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002—President Bush informed Congress that further diplomatic and other peaceful means alone would not adequately protect our national security against the continuing threat posed by Iraq nor likely lead to the enforcement of all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

The President informed the nation on the evening of March 19th that American and coalition forces had begun the early stages of military operations to disarm Iraq, free its people, and to defend the world from grave danger. Now that military action has commenced, I pray for our military personnel, for the liberation of the Iraqi people from Saddam Hussein's tyranny, and for a world free from the threat of Iraq's weapons of mass murder. It is my sincere hope and desire that each and every American will stand behind our military personnel and their families during this difficult time. I think we can all agree that they deserve the respect and gratitude of the American people.